Amendments to the Claims

1. (cancelled)

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

24. (cancelled)

25. (cancelled)

26. (cancelled)

27. (currently amended) A method of treating inflammatory disease in a patient comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a fusion protein comprising a latency associated peptide and a proteolytic cleavage site, wherein said fusion protein is covalently linked to an interleukin selected from the group consisting of interleukin-4, interleukin-5, interleukin-6, interleukin-10, interleukin-11, interleukin-12 and interleukin-13 and wherein said fusion protein is heterologous to said interleukin.

28. (cancelled)

29. (cancelled)

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the latency associated peptide comprises the precursor peptide of TGFβ-1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the proteolytic cleavage site is a matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) cleavage site.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the fusion protein is covalently linked to the latent TGF binding protein (LTBP).

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the inflammatory disease is selected from the group consisting of osteoarthritis, scleroderma, renal disease, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, multiple sclerosis and atherosclerosis.

34. (previously presented) A method for providing latency to an interferon comprising covalently linking a fusion protein comprising a latency associated peptide and a proteolytic cleavage site with the interferon, wherein said fusion protein is heterologous to said interferon and wherein said fusion protein provides latency to said interferon.

35. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the latency associated peptide comprises the precursor peptide of TGFβ-1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the proteolytic cleavage site is a matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) cleavage site.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the fusion protein is covalently linked to the latent TGF binding protein (LTBP).

38. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein said interferon is interferon-β.

39. (previously presented) A method for providing latency to an interleukin comprising covalently linking a fusion protein comprising a latency associated peptide and a proteolytic cleavage site with the interleukin, wherein said fusion protein is heterologous to said interleukin and wherein said fusion protein provides latency to said interleukin.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the latency associated peptide comprises the precursor peptide of TGFβ-1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the proteolytic cleavage site is a matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) cleavage site.

42. (previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the fusion protein is covalently linked to the latent TGF binding protein (LTBP).

43. (previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein said interleukin is selected from the group consisting of interleukin-1, interleukin-2, interleukin-3, interleukin-4, interleukin-5, interleukin-6, interleukin-7, interleukin-8, interleukin-9, interleukin-10, interleukin-11, interleukin-12, interleukin-13, interleukin-14, interleukin-15, interleukin-16, interleukin-17, interleukin-18, interleukin-19, interleukin-20 and interleukin-21.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said interleukin is selected from the group consisting of interleukin-2 and interleukin-4.

45. (previously presented) A method of treating inflammatory disease in a patient comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a fusion protein comprising a latency associated peptide and a proteolytic cleavage site, wherein said fusion protein is covalently linked to an interferon and wherein said fusion protein is heterologous to said interferon.

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the latency associated peptide comprises the precursor peptide of TGFβ-1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

47. (previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the proteolytic cleavage site is a matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) cleavage site.

48. (previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the fusion protein is covalently linked to the latent TGF binding protein (LTBP).

49. (previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the inflammatory disease is selected from the group consisting of osteoarthritis, scleroderma, renal disease, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, multiple sclerosis and atherosclerosis.

50. (previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein said interferon is interferon-β.

51. (cancelled)

52. (currently amended) The method of claim 27 ~~claim 51~~, wherein said interleukin is ~~selected from the group consisting of interleukin-2 and~~ interleukin-4.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.